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**Governor Baker Nominates Western MA Superior Court Judge Edward McDonough to the Appeals Court and Bruce Melikian to Western MA District Court**

**BOSTON**—Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated Superior Court Regional Administrative Justice Edward McDonough of Longmeadow to serve as an Associate Justice of the Appeals Court, and Bruce Melikian of Wilbraham to serve as an Associate Justice on the District Courts in Western Massachusetts. After a distinguished 32 year career as a trial attorney, McDonough was appointed to the Superior Court in 2013 and as Regional Administrative Justice covering Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties in 2015; Melikian has over 33 years of experience in both criminal and civil litigation and has operated his own firm in Springfield since 1987.

“Throughout their careers, Judge McDonough and Attorney Melikian have demonstrated a strong commitment to serving the Western Massachusetts community,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “I am confident, should they be confirmed, that their knowledge of the law, wisdom and temperament will serve the Commonwealth and their respective courts well.”

“I am pleased with the nominations of two well-respected and skilled attorneys from Western Massachusetts,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** “Their broad experience and dedication make them great candidates to continue to serve the Commonwealth and those who appear in their courts.”

The Appeals Court is the intermediate appellate court to which most appeals from the Massachusetts Trial Courts and a number of administrative bodies are made. The Court has one Chief and 24 Associate Justices.

For more information about the Massachusetts Appeals Court, visit

<http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/appealscourt/>.

The District Court hears a wide range of criminal, civil, housing, juvenile, mental health, and other types of cases. District Court criminal jurisdiction extends to all felonies punishable by a sentence up to five years, and many other specific felonies with greater potential penalties; all misdemeanors; and all violations of city and town

ordinances and by-laws. In civil matters, District Court judges conduct both jury and jury-waived trials, and determine with finality any matter in which the likelihood of recovery does not exceed \$25,000. The District Court also tries small claims involving up to \$7,000 (initially tried to a magistrate, with a defense right of appeal either to a judge or to a jury). The District Court's civil jurisdiction also includes many specialized proceedings, including abuse prevention restraining orders and civil motor vehicle infractions (tried initially to a magistrate, with right of appeal to a judge). For more information about the District Court, visit <http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/dc/>

Judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor's Council. Applicants for judicial openings are reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and recommended to the governor. Governor Baker established the JNC in February, 2015 pursuant to Executive Order 558, a non-partisan, non-political Commission composed of volunteers from a cross-section of the Commonwealth's diverse population to screen judicial applications. Twenty-one members were later appointed to the JNC in April, 2015.

#### **About The Honorable Edward McDonough**

Edward J. McDonough Jr. currently serves as an Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court, and its Regional Administrative Justice for Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties. McDonough began his career as a student law clerk, becoming an Associate Attorney in 1981 and later Managing Partner at the Springfield firm of Egan, Flanagan & Cohen, P.C. until his appointment to the bench in 2013. His trial practice in the Superior and Federal Courts focused primarily on civil rights law, product liability and medical malpractice. McDonough has represented clients in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, Massachusetts Appeals Court, First Circuit Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court of the United States. McDonough has served as an adjunct faculty member at Bay Path University and Elms College. In 2004, he was admitted to fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers and his professional affiliations include the Hampden County and Massachusetts Bar Associations. McDonough graduated *magna cum laude* from Western New England University School of Law in 1981 and from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1977 earning a Bachelor of Arts in History. He resides in Longmeadow with his wife Melissa and family

#### **About Bruce S. Melikian**

Bruce Melikian has over 33 years of legal experience in both civil and criminal law. He started his legal career as an associate in 1983 for the Law Offices of Edward N. Hurley in Springfield, where he focused on family law and criminal and civil litigation. After four years, he became a partner/owner at Hurley, Melikian, P.C. in Springfield, continuing his work in litigation and engaging in trial work in the Probate, District and Superior Courts to this day. His professional associations include the Massachusetts Bar Association, Hampden County Bar Association and the Armenian Bar Association. Attorney Melikian has received a very high peer review rating for over 20 years with the Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings. Attorney Melikian graduated *magna cum laude* from the Western New England University School of Law in 1983

and from the American International College in 1979, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree with High Honor. He is a life-long resident of Hampden County and currently resides in Wilbraham with his family.

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